

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/691,498
Reply to OA dated April 6, 2005

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1, 15, 20, 21 and 26 as shown on the enclosed drawings.

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the drawings as requested by the Examiner and made the suggested changes to the specification.

The allowability of Claim 2 is gratefully acknowledged.

Applicants' invention, as now specified in amended Claim 1, is to a display system that has a display unit and a reflector which are disposed in an instrument panel of an automotive vehicle, where the display unit emits an image, and the image is reflected by the reflector and projected on a windshield of the vehicle via an opening in the instrument panel. The display system superposes the image on a foreground of a driver's view such that a driver of the vehicle can simultaneously recognize the superposed image and the foreground via the windshield. The display system has a shutter device disposed between the display unit and the opening, and a control unit for indicating the image such that the image becomes alternatively in a smaller normal indication pattern and in a larger camera-taken image of the foreground. The control unit controls the shutter device to pass indication beams of the emitted image through the opening in conformity with a size of the emitted image.

Reconsideration and removal of the rejection of Claims 1, 5 and 6 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Mulvanny et al. (U.S. 5,497,271); of Claim 3 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of a combination of Mulvanny et al. and Knoll et al. (U.S. 5,422,812); of Claim 4 as obvious in view of a combination of Mulvanny et al. and Roberts et al. (U.S. H1109); and Claims 7-9 as obvious in view of a combination of Mulvanny et al. and Kleinschmidt (U.S.

6,750,832) are respectfully requested in view of the present amendment to Claim 1 and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, it is stated that Mulvanny shows a display system that has a display unit and a reflector where the display unit emits an image that is reflected by the reflector and projected on a windshield through an opening in the instrument panel. The display system superimposes an image on a foreground such that a driver of the vehicle can recognize the superimposed image and the foreground simultaneously via the windshield.

The Mulvanny display system has a shutter device superimposed between the display unit and the opening with the shutter device transformable to pass indication beams of emitted image through the opening in conformity with the size of the emitted image.

The Mulvanny system, however, does not teach or suggest, as in the present claimed display system, a control unit for indicating the image such that the image becomes alternatively in a smaller normal indication pattern and in a larger camera-taken image of the foreground, as called for the amended Claim 1. The amendment is clearly supported in the specification at least at page 10, line 25 to page 11, line 8.

In addition, the control unit, in the present claimed system, controls the shutter device to pass indication beams of the emitted image through the opening in conformity with the size of the emitted image. This feature is also lacking in the Mulvanny reference and the secondary references.

The secondary references, Knoll et al., Roberts and Kleinschmidt, while showing use of particular facets of the features of dependent claims in the present application, do not cure the deficiencies of the Mulvanny et al. reference and do not teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, the specified features of the display system of amended Claim 1.

In view of the present amendment and the above remarks, Applicants' Claims 1 and 3-9 are believed to be patentable in addition to allowable Claim 2 and early action towards allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Replacement Sheets of Drawing (Figs. 1, 15, 20, 21 and 26)

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